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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,626	11/27/2001	Kiyohiro Yokoyama	2001_1766A	8244

513 7590 09/29/2004

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WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021

EXAMINER

LEFLORE, LAUREL E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2673

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Advisory Action

Application No.

09/993,626

Applicant(s)

YOKOYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Laurel E LeFlore

Art Unit

2673

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 05 August 2004 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) ☒ The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- b) ☐ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection. ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. ☐ A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
- (a) ☐ they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) ☐ they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) ☐ they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) ☐ they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____.

3. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
4. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. ☒ The a) ☐ affidavit, b) ☐ exhibit, or c) ☒ request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: See Continuation Sheet.
6. ☐ The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. ☐ For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) ☐ will not be entered or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: _____.

Claim(s) objected to: _____.

Claim(s) rejected: _____.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

8. ☐ The drawing correction filed on _____ is a) ☐ approved or b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
9. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____.
10. ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of 5. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:

Applicant argues on pages 2-3 of of the Request for Reconsideration that the definition of what the dynamic range corresponds is an art recognized definition. Examiner agrees and thus withdraws the 35 U.S.C. 122, second paragraph, new matter rejection of claim 39.

Applicant argues on pages 3-4 of the Request for Reconsideration that "nowhere in Nishijima et al. are hygroscopic particles discussed or disclosed." However, Nishijima et al. discloses an adhesive mixed with hygroscopic particles. The hygroscopic mixture is the moisture sensing resistive substance of Nishijima's invention, as disclosed in column 6, lines 43-47. Here he further discloses that the moisture resistive substance is "capable of changing an electrical resistance...by absorbing a moisture." The adhesive properties of the moisture sensing resistive substance are inherent as evidenced by column 5, lines 32-34, which disclose a suggestion for increasing the adhesion of the moisture sensing resistive substance to the fiber surface.

The Examiner would like to further point to the definition of "hygroscopic" from the American Heritage College Dictionary, fourth edition, which defines "hygroscopic" as "Readily absorbing moisture, as from the atmosphere". Thus, the hygroscopic property of Nishijima's moisture resistive substance is disclosed in its capability of "absorbing a moisture", which is synonymous with "hygroscopic". Further, it is inherent that a hygroscopic substance has hygroscopic particles.



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